

REMARKS

In this Response, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11 and 13 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-18 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and remarks made herein.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 11-18 have been objected to for an informality in claim 11 (claims 12-18 are dependent upon claim 11).

In this Response, claim 11 has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the instant claim objection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 3-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 3-4 of the Final Office Action.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states: "Regarding claims 1, 4 and 11, these claims contain the limitation that IP information is discarded is [sic] the IP information is not related to a project. There is no clause in the claims which define the cited project."

In this Response, claim 1 is amended to clarify that the first IP information is discarded "upon a determination by the research center analyzing unit that the first IP information is not related to at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit". Claims 4 and 11 are similarly amended to read: "the research center analyzing unit determines whether the extracted IP information includes IP information that is related to at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit".

The instant specification at page 12, lines 3-8, states: "*If the research center analyzing unit 500 analyzes and classifies IP information supplied from the IP information analyzing unit 300 via the E-mail receiving/transmitting unit 400 and*

determines that the IP information is not related to the project, the information is deleted" (emphasis added).

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,721,910 issued to *Unger et al.* (hereinafter "*Unger*"), for the reasons set forth on pages 5-8 of the Final Office Action.

With regard to amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that *Unger* does not teach "discarding the first IP information upon a determination by the research center analyzing unit that the first IP information is not related to at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit".

Unger (col. 2, lines 58-65) discloses: "The present invention is a database system which contains a hierarchical model of a complex business, scientific or technical entity or specialty and the associated technical documents, such as patents or scientific or technical publications, or abstracts of those patents or publications, which reflect each aspect of that model. Each technical document may be assigned to one or more categories within the hierarchical model."

That is, *Unger* teaches that a database system contains a hierarchical model of an entity and associated technical documents are assigned to one or more categories in the hierarchical model.

Applicants respectfully submit that a *database containing technical documents that are assigned to one or more categories within a hierarchical model* is not analogous to "discarding the first IP information upon a determination by the research center analyzing unit that the first IP information is not related to at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit", as recited in amended claim 1. Consider that, in *Unger*, no IP information is discarded.

In the Final Office Action, as to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that the disclosure, in *Unger*, that "subsets of the documents may be selected by further searching of the stored data, col. 3, lines 55-59; ... subject-specific tables of technical details can be maintained, col. 3, lines 60-65" teaches discarding said IP information.

Applicants respectfully disagree and note that the above-cited passages in *Unger*, which the Examiner quotes in part, read in entirety as follows.

Subsets of all of the documents and/or subsets of one or more of the categories may be selected by further searching of any of the stored data. These subsets of documents and/or abstracts and/or claims may be displayed on a computerized graphical interface.

Unger (col. 3, lines 55-59)

The relational database can also contain subject-specific tables of technical details such as catalyst precursors, cocatalysts, reaction conditions, reactor types, or product characteristics, which are captured in a discrete form by scientists evaluating the underlying patents or technical documents.

Unger (col. 3, lines 60-65)

Thus, *Unger* (col. 3, lines 55-59) discloses that subsets of stored documents may be selected and displayed on a graphical interface. *Selecting subsets of stored documents, which may be displayed on a graphical interface*, as taught by *Unger*, does not teach discarding IP information, much less "discarding the first IP information upon a determination by the research center analyzing unit that the first IP information is not related to at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit", as recited in amended claim 1.

Unger (col. 3, lines 60-65) discloses evaluating patents or technical documents to capture technical details in a discrete form ("subject-specific tables"). Applicants submit that *evaluating patents or technical documents to capture technical details in subject-specific tables*, as taught by *Unger*, does not teach discarding IP information, much less "discarding the first IP information upon a determination by the research center analyzing unit that the first IP information is not related to at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit", as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, *Unger* does not anticipate claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that inasmuch as claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable over *Unger*, claim 1 is patentable as dependent on a patentable independent claim.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Unger* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,223 issued to *Walker et al.* (hereinafter "*Walker*"), for the reasons set forth on pages 9-26 of the Final Office Action.

With respect to claims 4 and 11, Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Unger* nor *Walker*, alone or in combination, teach or suggest "discarding the IP information upon a determination that the IP information is not related to the at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit."

With regard to *Unger*, analogous arguments to those made above in connection with the rejection of claim 1 apply.

Walker discloses an expert matching method and apparatus for managing communications between an expert having particular qualifications and an end user seeking a solution to an expert request (see col. 6, lines 56-64).

Walker's expert matching method and apparatus for managing communications between an expert having particular qualifications and an end user seeking a solution to an expert request does not teach or suggest "discarding the IP information upon a determination that the IP information is not related to the at least one project accessible by the research center analyzing unit", as recited in claims 4 and 11.

Thus, *Walker* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Unger*.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, claims 4 and 11 are believed to be patentable and non-obvious over the combination of *Unger* and *Walker*. Applicants respectfully submit that inasmuch as claims 5-10 are dependent on claim 4, and claims 12-17 are dependent on claim 11, and claims 4 and 11 are patentable and non-obvious

over the cited references, claims 5-10 and 12-17 are patentable as dependent on patentable independent claims.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Unger* in view of Walker and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,765 issued to *Ohtsuka* (hereinafter "*Ohtsuka*"), for the reasons set forth on pages 26-27 of the Final Office Action.

Claim 18 depends from claim 11. The dependent claim is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claim 11. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

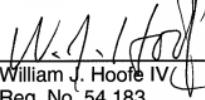
In view of the foregoing, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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